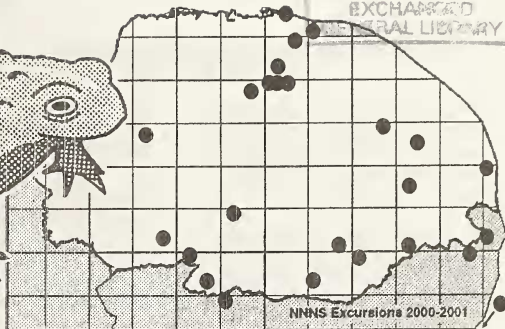
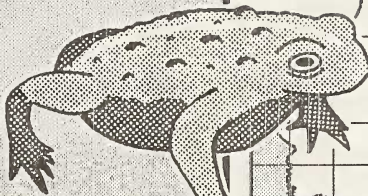


# THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK



## IF YOU GO DOWN IN THE WOODS.....

A naturalist photographing fungi in King's Forest near the Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow was robbed of £7,000-worth of camera equipment, the Eastern Daily Press reported recently. Two men threatened to beat up the man and put him in hospital unless he handed over the equipment. He did so without a struggle and the robbers made off in a red car.

So, should we be concerned that something like this could happen to us when we are out in the field with cameras and other optical equipment? Who better to ask than Garth Coupland, a Norfolk Police wildlife liaison officer and for the past three years a member of the Society's Council..

Garth says that such incidents are very rare in rural areas but there are sensible precautions you can take when you are about to set out with a collection of valuable gear. Be vigilant. Look around to see if there is anyone who might be watching you. The two robbers at West Stow will almost certainly have watched their victim unload his car and head for the woods. If there is anyone about who could be taking too close an interest in you, go

away. Don't take chances. And if you do have the misfortune to be confronted by robbers do as the West Stow victim did: hand over your equipment without putting up a fight. Cameras can be replaced. Resist and you might suffer serious injury - or worse.

But Garth says that much the greater concern for the police - and the victims - is the thieves who prey on cars left at nature reserves and beauty spots. Everyone is advised to put everything out of sight when they leave their car - but the thieves are one jump ahead. They wait and watch the unsuspecting visitor "hide" their valuables in the boot of the car, then break into it as soon as the owner leaves. In many instances, they break into cars anyway in the hope of finding something of value. Hiding property from the thieves is a waste of time. They can break into your car in less than a minute.

Garth offers some sound advice. On your outings, take with you only what you are going to need - and take it with you when you leave your car. If you are taking binoculars, leave the empty case open on the dashboard or the seat. An empty camera case or bag might also persuade thieves that nothing worth stealing has been left in the car. Make sure your equipment is fully insured. Check that your insurance covers your property when you take it

away from home and especially on trips abroad.

Is it worth security-marking your cameras and other gear? Yes, but the most satisfactory methods are the most drastic. If it is equipment that you are not going to want to sell on at a later stage, Garth suggests making it unsaleable by slapping some paint on it - a tactic recommended to schools for their computer equipment. What about marker pens whose "ink" is supposedly readable only under ultra-violet light? It doesn't stop the equipment being stolen. And the "ink" can be seen in ordinary light if the angle is right - and it can be cleaned off. But it is better than nothing because stolen property recovered by the police is always scanned in the hope of tracing the owner.

More satisfactory and of greater help to the police in tracing owners, but again something you might be reluctant to do if you hope to sell the equipment, is marking it permanently by scratching on an identity - postcode and house number, not your name.

It is a tragedy that we should even have to think about these things but this kind of crime is rife and we should do everything we can not to make it easy for the thieves.

*David Paull*

The quarterly bulletin  
of the  
Norfolk & Norwich  
Naturalists' Society



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May 2000

## Police appeal for witnesses

May I take a few minutes of your time to introduce to you, or to remind you of the existence within the police force of the Wildlife Liaison Officers (WLOs).

Norfolk Constabulary has about twenty officers scattered throughout the county. Our responsibility for wildlife matters is voluntary and additional to our normal police duties.

We rely on people like the NNNS members who are regularly "out in the field" to act as extra eyes and ears in the never ending battle against wildlife crime, sadly a growing problem. You are all potential witnesses if you come upon an offence, be it wildlife crime or otherwise.

The types of offences you may come across are many. Illegal traps or unchecked legal traps and snares with rotting corpses. Killing, injuring, interference with or disturbance of rare or protected animals such as Badgers, Bats, Great Crested Newts, birds and their nests and eggs. Plant theft including the digging up Bluebells and Snowdrops or the raking for Water Soldiers or lilies. Poisoning offences, often found as pegged out rabbit or poisoned eggs with dead wildlife nearby. **(Do not touch ANYTHING in these circumstances. Some poisoning can kill through inhalation or skin absorption).** Poaching, illegal specimen collecting, smuggling and illegal sale of protected species or their parts. Illegal habitat destruction, damage to nature reserves by "off-road" vehicles or trials bikes. The illegal release of certain species (including Barn Owls) into the wild.

Often people are suspicious of something they see but are not sure why. This results in a failure to report or late reporting of an incident. **IF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS THEN IT MUST BE SUSPICIOUS!**

The police do not mind attending a "false alarm with good intent". What often appears to be an offence can turn out to be lawful (whether we agree with the law or not is another matter!). We would rather check it out than risk losing the chance to prosecute an offender.

As potential witnesses I must stress that you should never, ever put yourselves in danger. That is what we are paid for! What we do need is good evidence gathering and early reporting of incidents.

PLEASE always carry a notebook and pencil, write down what you observe accurately and retain it. Your notes could be vital evidence at a future trial. Record vehicle number plates, vehicle types and colours and any vehicle peculiarities. Record descriptions and numbers of suspects and what they are doing. Photograph incidents if it is safe to do so. If you have a mobile phone use it immediately and if a suspected offence is ongoing or suspects have just left the scene use the 999 system. Otherwise contact the police as soon as possible.

If you wish to report or discuss a non-urgent wildlife matter you can contact the police switchboard on 01603 768769 and request a WLO to visit or make contact with you. Or give me a ring - work extension 3126 / home 01493 750095. Thankyou.

Garth M Coupland  
PC 215 Acle Police Station



## The shrews that thought they were mice (and paid the price)

To find a pygmy shrew, Britain's smallest mammal, is a delight; to find one in your attic is strange; to find one in a cheese-baited mousetrap is bizarre but for this to have happened twice in the same village is remarkable. When, in January, Julia Peaver caught a shrew on the top floor of her house in Edgefield she took it to neighbour Ian Keymer who identified it as a pygmy shrew by its small size and a tail longer than two-thirds of its body length. It was Julia's mother, Angela Turner, who recalled reading in the 1998 Bird & Mammal Report (p. 314) that two had been reported from mouse-traps in a loft by AB/RB, Ann and Richard Brooks, who also live in Edgefield!

Tony Leech

## Hibernation or what?

A pristine Red Admiral was observed in my Father-in-law's garden at Costessey on March 25<sup>th</sup> - a case of hibernation over a mild winter or an early migrant?

David Mower

## Galls on Broom

I was interested to read Colin A. Jacobs' contribution, *Galls on Broom*, in the February 2000 issue. However, the galls were collected on Diss station and not Norwich as stated.

A small bed has been planted with ornamental shrubs on the 'down' platform at Diss. Two of these were broom, about 10 yards apart. One bush was heavily infested with the galls, the other, curiously, completely free of them.



Arthur Copping

## A NEST ON THE WALL

March 29<sup>th</sup>

A hen Blackbird has been steadily building a nest on my garage wall, tucked well into a *Pyracantha* bush growing there. I found the first few bits of material sticking out over a week ago. Since then she has made a beautifully crafted goblet of fine roots and dead grasses. I watch her from the greenhouse when I am working there, but mostly I can observe her activities from the dining room window which overlooks the garden.

The cock bird is a typical foreman, he sits about on any high vantage point keeping an eye on things. He is still a young bird, no golden circle round the eye yet, but he does his job in keeping others of the species off his patch. He tends to be in full voice in the early morning, the lovely, melodious song ringing round the garden. What would an English spring be without this songster.

I look forward to the continuation of this saga, they almost seem like family.

Tony Howes

## Blow me down!

High winds normally cause minor branch falls around the village but at the end of 1999 a blow felled a lone Scot's Pine tree that stood in the corner of a field on the village edge.

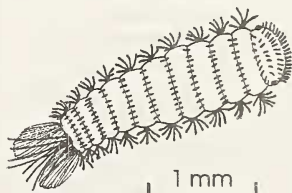
Since pines are not naturally found in our stiff clay soil I stopped to take a closer look at this fallen tree. A contributory cause of its downfall could clearly be seen as the rich reddish-orange of the wood and horizontal cracks in the centre of the trunk indicated that extensive dry rot had reduced the flexibility of the trunk. The bark and outer white wood had twisted and split. Beneath several pieces of loose bark there were shiny shed skins of some small creature. As I prised these off the tree dozens of tiny 1-2mm long hairy creatures scuttled away.

Their general shape, chestnut colour, short hairs down each side and a tuft on the end of the tail reminded me of 'woolly bears' - larvae of beetles that feed on dried animal and plant remains. As usual my pockets contained an assortment of containers and I collected several to breed through to adulthood for subsequent identification.

Some days later I was clearing a partly obstructed footpath and after I had solved that problem I wandered further along to check some bridges. Halfway along the path was a lone stunted oak tree with some patches of dead bark which of course I had to leave off. Under the bark were some more of the creatures and some moth pupae which I collected to identify.

When I came to look at the moth pupae under the

microscope and draw them I saw one of the creatures on its back waving its legs in the air but it had 'legs' along the whole length of its body not just the three pairs beetles have. "Cor! Look at this!" I said to my daughter who was doing her homework at the adjacent desk in the study. "It looks like a woolly woodlouse or millipede", she replied as she leaned on my shoulder and peered down the microscope. "That's it", I thought as I pushed the chair back almost knocking her over as I rushed to the bookcase on the other side of the room. There in my newly acquired Key to Millipedes was, - first in the book, the "Bristly Millipede" *Polyxenus lagurus*.



Its small size and distinct silvery brush of hairs on the tail and black tufts down the side makes it easily identified if somewhat difficult to find. The map in the book shows that it was widely distributed over the British Isles but absent from certain counties including Norfolk. This distribution pattern is probably due more to the lack of Millipede experts than the creatures themselves, so I was not surprised to find Norfolk's own millipede expert had found it in several places throughout the county since the book had been published.

Robert Maidstone



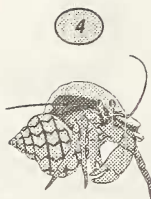
## West Runton Beach

20<sup>th</sup> February 2000

When I was asked to lead an excursion to Runton Beach as a winter fixture, I had some reservations, but it turned out to be a better day than some I have had in the height of Summer! A score of members and families ventured on to the uncomfortable walking occasioned by the slippery chalk, flints and seaweed, and managed to find a good variety of the plant and animal life of this unique beach - Norfolk's special version of the rocky shore.

Flat Wrack at the highest level quickly gave way to Bladder Wrack, which in turn was gradually replaced by Serrated Wrack as we went down the gentle slope (about 2.5m vertically over some 200m horizontally) towards the sea. Red seaweeds were represented by Laver *Porphyria umbilicalis* (not enthusiastically recommended by Roy Baker, though Welsh!) and by Coral Wrack, with a couple of Carrageens, *Gigartina* and *Chondrus*, further down. New to some present was the encrusting red seaweed *Lithothamnion*, looking rather like a pinky-purple lichen. Green seaweeds included Sea Lettuce and *Cladophora*.

The animal life, after a rather slow start with little more than Common Periwinkles at the top end of the beach, became much more varied further down. The larger flints were encrusted with the Antipodean barnacle *Elminius modestus* (presumed to have come into European waters on ships' hulls) and serpulid tube-worms. Dog-whelks (some bright yellow) and mainly very small



Beadlet Anemones appeared when we were half-way down the beach. Two fish caught proved to be Shannies (a type of Blenny), and a fresh-looking "empty" Painted Top-shell in fact contained a small Hermit Crab. Small, sometimes very small, Edible Crabs were quite abundant at the lowest levels, and here Francis Farrow managed to find two of the Runton specialities, a Squat Lobster *Galathea squamifera* and an immature Spider-crab, which camouflages itself by "planting" seaweeds on its carapace. An unwelcome addition to the Runton fauna was a few live Slipper Limpets *Crepidula fornicata*, an alien pest of oyster beds; I have previously only seen dead shells washed up.

Paul Banham

## Scolt Head Island

The Society has booked the "hut" on Scolt Head Island for the week 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June for interested members to visit and record some of the wildlife found on the site. A charge will be made, but the amount will depend on how many people wish to use the hut.

The hut sleeps five (beds, mattresses, pillows provided but not bedding) and gas cooking facilities, but you need to take your own food and matches. The Reserve Warden has offered to ferry members on and off the island at high tide on any day if you wish to stay for only a day or two.



Any member who is interested in staying a night or two (or seven!) and finding out what is there, or experts who cannot come but who would like particular species collected, should contact:

Robert Maldstone on  
01508 531287 by June 1st.

## Magnification Magic - NNS Hand Lens Offer

Birdwatchers need binoculars, mycologists need microscopes but all naturalists need a hand lens. A simple x8 or x10 lens transports its user into an otherwise unseen world where pollen grains can be seen, fleas look fascinating and even moulds can appear beautiful. Three tips will ensure success:



- Hold the lens as close to your eye as possible.
- Make sure the specimen is well illuminated.
- Keep the lens on a cord round your neck; it will be easier to use and less easy to lose.

Now, through the goodwill of *Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies*, the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society can offer good quality 12 mm diameter x10 Ruper lenses for £7.50 each including p & p. Order from Tony Leech (3, Eccles Road, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6HJ. Tel: 01263 712282), to whom cheques should be made payable, and remember that buying a young naturalist a good lens is an excellent way of encouraging interest.

Tony Leech

## Regular Visitor

Last winter a pied wagtail was seen on the lawn when the bird food went out, it seemed to prefer the shredded suet more than the seeds. This was the third winter that this individual had shown up here. How do we know? - because it has a deformed right foot, almost like a little club, but it can walk ok, just a bit ungainly.

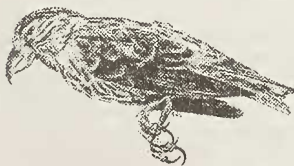
It looked out of place somehow mixing in with wood pigeons, doves, blackbirds and the like, but it could hold its own. Such tiny little things must get very cold indeed when sleeping in the severe frosts that were prevalent last December.

*Tony Howes*

## How the Crossbill got its...

Tony Howes' account of the collision of a Pied Flycatcher with his lounge window (*Natterjack*, Nov 1999) reminds me of an experience with a less happy outcome. A group of us were standing outside the Biology Department at Gresham's School, Holt when there was a bang above and a small brown bird fell dead at our feet. The pupil who picked it up pointed out that the impact had twisted the bird's bill; his friend, a very competent bird-watcher, correctly identified it as a female Crossbill.

*Tony Leech*



Crossbill (? 1st Winter f.) killed after hitting a window, September 8th. 1990.

## Whooper Swan — 6S53

I saw a party of 34 Whooper Swans feeding and preening on a ploughed field near Potter Heigham on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2000. On closer inspection one was seen to be wearing a blue neck-collar. A telescope search enabled me to read this as '6S53'.

The bird, a female, was ringed and given the collar as a cygnet near Ylojavi, Finland on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1996. It was one of a brood of five ringed at the same time. It was recorded in the same general area on five other occasions that autumn; the last being on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1996.

One week later, on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1996 it was seen at Catfield, Norfolk and remained in the Catfield, Ludham area (where it was reported 36 times), usually with three of its siblings, until 28<sup>th</sup> February 1997. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 1997 it was reported from near Norköping, Götland in southern Sweden and on the following day it was seen back in its natal area of Finland. It was reported from that area on a number of occasions until 29<sup>th</sup> April 1997 and again from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November 1997.

The next sighting was from Catfield on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1998 where it remained until 13<sup>th</sup> February 1998. On its return journey to Finland it stayed briefly in the island of Åland on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> April 1998, being seen back in the Hameenkyro breeding area by 20<sup>th</sup> April 1998 and 50 miles further north a few days later. It had returned south again

by 25<sup>th</sup> April when it was one of a flock of 178 birds. It was last reported that autumn in Finland on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1998.

On Christmas Eve 1998 it was back on sugar beet fields at Sutton Hall and was seen there, at West Lessingham and Catfield on many occasions until 17<sup>th</sup> January 1999. It was next seen in southern Sweden on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1999, its last recorded sighting until my record from Potter Heigham on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2000.

*Don Dorling*

## Fantastic Fulmars

A trip to Northumberland last year gave me the opportunity to watch Fulmars that were nesting on the rock ledges not far from our cottage. It was awesome to see these truly oceanic birds gliding along a sheer rock face in a strong wind. The bullet shaped body with stiffly held wings seems to punch through the swirling air with easy grace and great speed. They would hurtle along the cliff with just an occasional up and down movement of the rigidly held wings, a slight rolling motion as the tail and wings were tilted to steer its course along the rock face was evident. The Kittewakes that shared the ledges with them were slow and ungainly by comparison.

As these Fulmars made each pass, often very close and at my level, I could see their black eyes looking at me as if to say 'What did you think of that then?' I have been to airshows and seen modern jet fighters going through their paces, but to watch a Fulmar Petrel cruising the cliff face in a stiff breeze must be the ultimate - Poetry in Motion.

*Tony Howes*

## One of a few - Fred Ashton - Remembered

*Natterjack* No. 68 included notes from a few long-standing members of happenings during the last century which were personal highlights. For the most part they were simple observations of events which were unlikely to be repeated at the present time.

*Natterjack* also included an appreciation of Colin Deck who laboured behind the scenes for many years on behalf of the Society. He was a character, one of a few who have 'lightened our darkness' on many occasions and are remembered with affection. They should not be forgotten.

Some of us will smile at the mention of Fred Ashton, a regular attendee at our meetings and outings in the post-war years. In his youth, Fred was said to have worked in the taxidermist business established by Thomas Gunn in St Giles, Norwich. It flourished in the early part of the century when the shooting and preservation of birds were socially acceptable. Gunn died in 1923 and although the business continued until a few years after the war it finally closed.

At this time Fred was living in a bungalow in Larkman Lane accompanied by his mother. From this base he carried out a certain amount of taxidermy and when paying him a visit one always had to be ready for a surprise. Fred only used the back door, so entry had to be made via the back garden. On one occasion I was greeted by a fox, an adult and very much alive. It was tethered by means of a collar and chain to a stake and its 'earth' was a large hole in the ground beneath a fence. Needless to say, internally, the nature of Fred's latest taxidermal enterprise tended to dominate the scene.

As a result of his experience in taxidermy, Fred was quite

knowledgeable about some aspects of natural history but he was capable of making a statement which left one without a rational reply and what he regarded as normal would raise eyebrows elsewhere.

Apart from taxidermy, Fred had a small parcel of land in Costessey where he kept a few chickens and pigs. To help feed his stock, stale food was collected from various outlets in the city, a trade bicycle being used for transport. The most striking feature of this cycle was a large open wooden scoop at the front. It resembled, in shape, that seen on a modern mechanical digger, and it accommodated all Fred's collections. In addition he had a motorised version. I think it was a tricycle and it was used for longer excursions. It sported an even larger scoop and the versatility of this unit was demonstrated to me, vividly, in the early 1950's. It was a late afternoon in February. It was very cold with a keen frost. I had been photographing the pre-nesting display of herons at Wickhampton and, around sunset, I was returning to Norwich along the old Yarmouth road. Nearing Postwick, I noticed in the distance a figure on a cycle, in silhouette against a fiery sky. On closer approach I realised it was Fred. Pulling out into the middle of the road to pass, I glanced across at the scoop. It contained a figure swathed in furs. It was Fred's mother!

I said that what Fred regarded as normal would raise eyebrows elsewhere. But he was a lovely man whose company we all enjoyed.

*Reg Jones*



## MUSEUM UPDATE

Norwich Castle is now closed and empty of collections, although most of the displays remain, protected from the building work by timber cladding. It opens again in the spring of 2001. The proposed changes to the museums service 'natural history department' took place from April 1st. You will now find Tony Irwin and Rob Driscoll working at the Shirehall - still with the same phone numbers, this is the new "Natural History Curatorial Section".

The newly formed "Environment Section", which operates under "Archaeology & Environment" is now to be found in the East Wing of the Gressenhall Rural Life Museum - just a little way north of Dereham, telephone: 01362 860528. So far this consists of me, although the 4th post has been transferred there as well, and should be filled soon.

I don't think it is any secret that this has been a VERY difficult time for us all, and now the task in hand is to re-organise ourselves and unpack hundreds of books, boxes and specimens. We never want to see another piece of bubble-wrap ever again! We shall try to keep everyone informed of our progress, and will be able to make the collections available for study again before long. I shall be making appointments to see as many Norfolk naturalists as possible during the next few months to elicit your detailed comments on the proposed re-establishment of the Norfolk Biological Records Centre, which I sincerely hope will propel us all forward, and networking together in the 21st century. THANKS for your patience and understanding.

*John Goldsmith*



## FIELD & INDOOR MEETINGS May - July 2000

Please note that start times are variable and that two of the meetings this quarter can only take limited numbers so that booking is essential.

■ Rubber boots recommended.

■■ Rubber boots essential.

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May Fulmeston Severals and Hindolveston Wood.

10.00 a.m. Full Day. ■

Directions : Turn north from the A1067 at Guist onto the B1110 towards Holt. After about 4 km. turn right into the farm road just before Severals Grange. TG008288.

We are most grateful to the landowner for the opportunity to visit these private woods and it will be interesting to compare them to nearby Swanton Novers wood that we are to visit the following week. The Severals has some very fine exotic trees. The afternoon meeting point is at TG039285.

Leader: Gillian Beckett.

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May Swanton Novers Great Wood.

11.00 a.m. Full Day. ■■

Directions: Turn north from the A1067 at Guist onto the B1110 towards Holt. After about 7 km. bear left into Swanton Novers village. Meet near the telephone box which is on the left, about 100 m. before the crossroads. TG020322.

The wood is a National Nature Reserve with a wide variety of habitats and it is well known for the colony of May Lily. Palmate newts have recently been discovered and there is always the chance of wood warblers passing through at this time of year. We have been asked to restrict the party to 20 persons so please book with Bob Ellis on 01603 662260.

Leader: Robert Baker

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June Thetford Water Meadows.

11.00 a.m. Full Day. ■

Directions: Meet in the Quicksave car park, Thetford. TL866832.

This site is under-recorded so hopefully we will be able to add to its species list. In the afternoon, we will probably go on the Horse Meadows or another site nearby.

Leader: Nick Gibbons.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June Shelfanger Town Meadows.

11.00 a.m. Full Day. ■

Directions: The meeting point is about 3.5 km. north of Diss on the B1077 (towards Shelfanger and Winfarthing) on the east side of the road opposite Hall Lane. TM107833.

If time permits, we will go on to Boyland Common in the afternoon.

Leader: Arthur Copping.

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June Ebb & Flow Marshes.

11.00 a.m. Full Day. ■

Directions: Meet at Ranworth Staithe. TG359146.

This site was acquired by the Wildlife Trust in 1997 and is part of the Bure Marshes SSSI. Access is best achieved by boat. With mixed habitat of reedbed, sedgebed and carr, there are a number of the scarcer broadland plants here and many of the insects so special to the area. The party is limited to 24 persons so please book with Eunice Phipps on 01953 605273.

Leader: George Taylor.

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June Spout Hills, Holt.

7.30 p.m. Evening only. ■■

Directions: Leave Holt on the A148 towards Fakenham. Meet in the long lay-by on the south side of the road about 300 m. past the church. TG073388.

This is an intriguing site with several artesian springs, some towards the top of the hills. A surprisingly wide range of species are present and there is a disused railway line adjacent which is also of interest.

Leader: Raz Woollacott.

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June East Walton Common

11.00 a.m. Full Day. ■

Directions: Turn north from the A47 just west of Narborough onto the B1153 towards Gayton. Bear left at East Walton towards East Winch then turn immediately left onto the lane to the common. TF739166.

The common is a SSSI and is well known for its pingoes and chalk grassland.

Leader: Peter Lambley.

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July Wheatfen Natural History Day

Please see the separate panel.

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Wacton Parish

11.00 a.m. Full Day

Directions: Turn west off the A140 at Long Stratton towards Wacton. Meet in the villagehall car park which is about 100m past the chapel on the south side of the road. TG179915.

Robert has booked the village hall for our use and there will be microscopes, books and keys available, so towards the end of the day we will be able to spend some time in detailed identification work.

Leader: Robert Maidstone.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July

Foxley Wood

8.00 a.m. Morning. ■

Directions: Meet at the NWT car park. TG049229

Jon will be putting several moth traps out over night so we will be able to check them in the morning, hence the early start.  
Leader: Jon Clifton.

I apologise to all concerned for the rather cursory notes in the last issue of *Natterjack*. Due to a technical hitch, the editor received a draft version rather than the intended final copy.

Bob Ellis, Chairman  
Programme Committee

## WHEATFEN Natural History Day 9<sup>th</sup> July 2000

The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society and the Ted Ellis Trust are jointly hosting a Natural History Day on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2000 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wheatfen Nature Reserve, Surlingham. Several local specialists have been invited to give demonstrations and guided walks to encourage interest in many aspects of natural history. It is hoped that by holding a number of guided walks with small parties concentrating on particular groups of species, participants will be able to learn more than they would in a large party of general interest.

There will be no admission charge but donations to the reserve will be welcomed as usual and tea and cakes will be on sale. Many of the walks will be repeated morning and afternoon so if you are there for the whole day, it will be possible to take advantage of several walks, or if you can only come for part of the day you should still be able to participate in those that are of interest to you. If you wish to bring a picnic lunch, there will be tables etc. available.

As well as guided walks with hints and tips on identification, it will be possible to talk to local naturalists, to see what books are available and which are recommended and to see what sort of equipment is useful. Beginners will be particularly welcome.

## RELATED CONGRATULATIONS

Ernest Daniels, who is our longest serving member having joined in 1928, celebrated sixty years of marriage to Bessie earlier this year. Reg and Lil Evans enjoyed a similar celebration last year.

We extend belated congratulations to both couples on achieving their Diamond Weddings with our Best Wishes for many more years of happiness together.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members who pay by cheque are reminded that subscriptions fell due on 1 April, 2000. Current rates are £12 for ordinary and family members.

Members who paid by bankers order at the old rate of £10 should send the balance of £2 to the treasurer at the address below. A revised bankers order form will be sent to you.

DI Richmond,  
42, Richmond Rise,  
Reephham, Norfolk NR10 4LS.

## HOLT LOWES WILDLIFE GROUP

Newly-formed, this informal grouping aims to document the flora and fauna of Holt Lowes SSSI, and the on-going effects of conservation management.

The first newsletter should be available by early May, and will include checklists of vascular plants, dragonflies and moths.

Copies are available for £5 (including postage & packing; cheques payable to 'Gresham's School Natural History Society') from:

Tony Leech,  
Gresham's School  
Natural History Society,  
Gresham's School,  
Cromer Road, Holt,  
Norfolk, NR25 6EA.

Simon & Anne Harrap



## Calling all Squirrels !

The winter activities of *Sciurus keymeri* have revealed a large hoard of biological journals, mostly going back many years, in the attic of The Old Smithy, Edgefield (TG096345). Before pest control officers are alerted to the squirrel's activities, and as there is a danger of the bedroom ceilings collapsing, it has been reluctantly decided to dispose of the journals. All *Sciurus* spp. (except of course that alien *S. carolinensis*!) are invited to apply for any of the following:-

"Biologist", Journal of the Institute of Biology.

"Birds", The magazine of the RSPB.

"Natural World", The national magazine of The Wildlife Trusts.

"Mammal Review", Journal of The Mammal Society.

"BTO News", British Trust of Ornithology newsletter.

"Oryx", Journal of Fauna & Flora International (previously Fauna & Flora Preservation Society).

There is no charge; simply collect what you would like from the habitat of *S. keymeri* - Telephone 01263 587365.

Ian Keymer

## Please note....

the Ted Ellis Website is now:  
<http://ourworld.cs.com/wheatlen>  
and e-mail is  
[wheatlen@cs.com](mailto:wheatlen@cs.com)



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NR20 5DE.

Or phone 01263 862068

Proprietors: J Clifton & A Wander

## A note to CONTRIBUTORS.

The next Natterjack will be in August. It would be much appreciated if any correspondence could be sent to the following address, *as soon as possible by July 1<sup>st</sup>*, and marked with NNNS on the envelope. For those with access to a computer a WORD document or an ordinary text file on disc would be most helpful, or you can send an e-mail to: [francis.f@virgin.net](mailto:francis.f@virgin.net)

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